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Air Bases in Tibet

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REFERENCE COPY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. In the winter of 1951 and the first two months of 1952 the Communists¹ established air routes and landing stations for hydroplanes in Tibet. The first main air route went from Ozero Issyk Kul (approximately 77- , 42-), USSR, via Shemen Tsho² (Charol Tso, 81-40, 34-02) and Seling Tsho² (Zilling Tso, 89-00, 31-50) to Nam Tsho Chhime (90-30, 30-45). During the same period branch routes and sub-stations were established at Nyak Tsho³ (79-48, 33-33) in the vicinity of Rudok⁴ (79-40, 33-27) and at Manasarowar Lake (81-25, 30-40). Prior to March 1952 Soviet pilots made a test flight along these routes.
2. In late 1951 and early 1952 the Chinese Communists planned the construction of large-scale air bases at Chhushu⁶ (Chushul Dzong, 90-46, 29-25), Zhikatse⁷ (88-53, 29-15), Saka (85-09, 29-30), and Gartok⁸ (80-22, 31-45). During this time auxiliary bases were built at Heiho (approximately 82-45, 32-59), Gyangtse (89-38, 28-57), and Memar Tsakha² (82-16, 34-14).

25X1 [] Comment. It is not clear whether these routes and stations were established by the Soviets or the Chinese Communists or both.

25X1 [] Comment. According to an available map these are salt water lakes.

25X1 [] Comment. According to an available map Nyak Tsho flows into Pangkong Tsho (78-43, 33-45), []

25X1 [] December 1950 as a salt water lake suitable for a seaplane station.

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25X1 [redacted] in October 1951 the
Soviets were building an airfield at Lotak'o (probably Rudok).
25X1 [redacted] October
1950 two Soviet seaplanes landed on Lake Manasarowar. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] projected construction of an airfield between Lake
Manasarowar and Rakas Tal (81-15, 30-44).
25X1 [redacted] Comment. There have been numerous reports of airfields
25X1 in the vicinity of Lhasa.
25X1 [redacted] Comment. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 Soviets were airlifting uranium ore from Tibet, purportedly from
25X1 a new airfield at Zhikatse.
25X1 [redacted]
airstrip could easily be constructed at Gartok.

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